

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are amended. The revisions to the claims are supported, for example, at page 1, lines 5-7, at page 4, line 1 through page 5, line 2, and in the original claims. Claims 3 and 7-9 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are pending, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim.

Claim objections

Claim 5 was objected to by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. In particular, Applicants note that the specification supports the present language of claim 5 at, for example, page 6, lines 19-22. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 8, and 9 stand rejected being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,245,175 (Hotta). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; however, Applicants note that claims 8 and 9 have been canceled.

Claim 1 is directed to a pressure welding type anisotropic conductive elastic connector. The connector includes beryllium copper wires arranged linearly and regularly in the thickness direction of a silicone rubber. The connector is formed by arranging beryllium copper wires on a thin unvulcanized silicone rubber sheet in parallel to and close contact with each other, curing the thin unvulcanized silicone rubber sheet, and further adhering a thin unvulcanized rubber sheet on the beryllium copper wires. Corrosion inhibiting plating is provided on end faces of the beryllium copper wires. By this method, an elastic connector with advantageous properties is produced. For example, the use of silicone rubber results in a connector with good elasticity. Also, the corrosion inhibiting plating protects the wires from corrosion and increases the effective life of the connector.

Hotta does not teach or suggest at least these features. Hotta is directed to a method for producing an anisotropic conductive film. However, the method of Hotta involves winding a conductor wire around a core member. Thus, Hotta does not teach or suggest that wires are arranged linearly and regularly in a thickness direction of a silicone rubber and formed by

pressure welding. Hotta also does not teach or suggest the formation of an elastic connector using silicone rubber, the use of beryllium copper wires, or the use of corrosion inhibiting plating.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is believed allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-5 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Hotta in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,364,276 (Inasaka). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; however, Applicants note that claim 3 has been canceled.

Claims 4 and 5 depend from allowable claim 1. Claim 1 is allowable over Hotta for the reasons stated above. Inasaka does not remedy the deficiencies of Hotta.

Inasaka is directed to an anisotropic conductive connector. However, Inasaka does not teach or suggest the formation of an elastic connector, formed with silicone rubber. Nor does Inasaka teach or suggest the formation of a connector by pressure welding or by using beryllium copper wires.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 5 are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Hotta in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,103,359 (Doi). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; however, Applicants note that claim 7 has been canceled.

Claim 6 depends from allowable claim 1. Claim 1 is allowable over Hotta for the reasons stated above. Doi does not remedy the deficiencies of Hotta.

Doi is directed to an anisotropic conductor sheet. However, Doi does not teach or suggest the use of beryllium copper wires. Instead, Doi teaches the use of ferromagnetic particles in anisotropic conductor sheets. Moreover, Doi does not teach or suggest the integration of beryllium copper wires with a silicone rubber by arranging beryllium copper wires on a thin unvulcanized silicone rubber sheet in parallel to and close contact with each other, curing the thin unvulcanized silicone rubber sheet, and further adhering a thin unvulcanized rubber sheet on the beryllium copper wires.

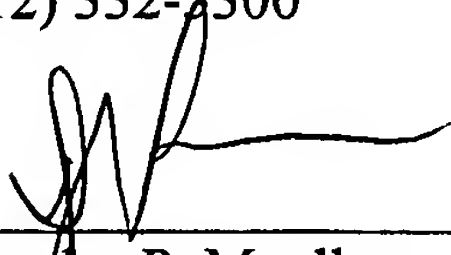
Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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